



The

Monday Update

July, 2003

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MI Choice to add 1,800 new clients

Good news! MI Choice is expanding its services to add more clients after being closed for two years. An additional 1,800 slots have just been opened.

This is important news to qualified people with disabilities and aging Michigan residents who wish to have a choice: to remain at home and receive needed care, or obtain that care in a long term care facility.

In order to qualify for MI Choice, a person must first qualify for Medicaid itself. This includes income and assets amounts, as well as medical eligibility.

The foundations of MI Choice lie in the 1999 U.S. Supreme Court decision that said “States are required to place persons with mental disabilities in community settings rather than in institutions when the State’s treatment professionals have determined that community placement is appropriate.....”

To learn more about qualification for MI Choice, contact the local waiver agency that has the answers. For the nearest office, go to the web site for Michigan Access to Services for Seniors at www.miseniors.net. There, click on Search for Services/Long Term Care/MI Choice Waiver Program and select a county. No access to the Internet? Call the DD Council office – 517-334-7288 – for the agency number.

The MI Choice waiver program is also known as community-based services, which is the federal name. The waiver actually waives or changes some of the usual federal Medicaid program eligibility regulations. Also waived are the usual restrictions on what services can be provided by Medicaid. It is a medical program and does not usually provide social services, which may be part of home-based care.

The number of people being served by MI Choice has dropped from about 15,000 just two years ago to less than 7,000 at the start of this year.

Sliding to over-budget

The slide actually began in fall of 2001 when enrollment in MI Choice was closed for budget reasons. Policymakers were concerned the program would go over-budget, which it finally did.

Then in 2002, the annual waiver budget was cut from \$126 million to \$100 million. This meant a second year with no new participants. MI Choice costs less for most people.

In fact, using MI Choice saves the State of Michigan about \$59 per participant, every day! Cost to the state for each participant is about \$39 each day, a savings of about 60 percent. Even with extra costs, such as administrative and care management, are figured in, the savings is still around 50 percent.

Services provided by MI Choice are similar to those a person might receive in a nursing home or other care facility. However, with MI

Choice, a person can choose to receive these services at home, in the familiar surroundings of house or apartment.

The program is for low-income adults with disabilities who qualify for care in a nursing home. Eligible participants must be able to live at home in safety with appropriate support services.

A representative from the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) or a similar agency visits the MI Choice candidate to best determine the services and supports he or she will need. The representative only recommends services rather than provide them.

Monitoring for changes

The AAA staff person monitors the MI Choice participant, and his or her services and supports, for any changes in care that might be necessary.

The Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan recently conducted a statewide survey that shows the vast majority of state residents want home-based care. Such demand may be met with increased services and additional waivers.

For more information on the survey, contact the Area Agencies on Aging Association at 517/886-1029.

Grant Writer's Academy ready to launch first class sessions

The DD Council's new Grant Writer's Academy is nearly ready to schedule its first class. For individuals and agencies who write grant proposals, the academy's series of four class sessions will be of great benefit.

According to Glenn Ashley, the council's grants monitor, writing a grant proposal of any kind can be difficult. Ashley is co-founder of the academy along with Grants Manager Cheryl

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Trommater.

That is the purpose of the grants academy: to improve the chances of successfully capturing grants by improving proposal development and writing skills.

Ashley says that winning proposals pass the 3-C test: They are clear, complete, and consistent with council values.

While early classes will be aimed at council grants in particular, a later session will address private grants. A complete academy program will consist of four classes.

Classes will be limited in size. Most classes will run a full day. Students must register prior to the first session, says Ashley. Priority will be given to students signing up for all four classes. The sessions will be spread out over a period of about one year.

Understanding plus a mini-grant

The first class -- "Understanding RFPs, Applications and Other Requirements" -- will be held in concert with the upcoming RFP for RICC (Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee) Mini-Grants. The academy class will be presented at the same time and place as the mini-grant bidders' conference.

Covered in the first class will be the Council's grant application basics and forms and papers that must be completed when applying. One important feature will be making sense of an RFP. Other elements include outcomes and indicators. Students will also develop their own proposals.

"These are tools and procedures the applicant must have to successfully compete for the grant," Ashley states.

Helping with the proposal

The second session of the Grant Writer's Academy is "Please Help Me Improve My Proposal!" Students will work on their own proposals, identifying fatal errors and working in small groups to improve their applications.

The second session will be held several weeks before the mini-grant proposals are due.

The third session – “Why Didn’t My Grant Get Funded?” – will continue the work begun in session two. “You’d be surprised how many proposals we receive that are missing major sections,” Ashley exclaims. “They have come in without cover sheets and even without a budget.”

Identifying strengths and weaknesses in a proposal will be encouraged during the third session. Ashley says there are fatal errors that could easily be avoided. “Amazingly, some proposals are for programs in segregated settings!

“A proposal may call for a program in an institutionalized setting such as a sheltered workshop. Segregated situations run completely counter to the Council’s values and firm belief in systems change and an inclusive life for people with disabilities.”

Right the first time

Yet another route to a quick rejection is to ask for funds to continue an ongoing activity. Still another is asking for extra money beyond what the grant offers.

The first three sessions deal primarily with Council RFPs and grants. However, instructors will be glad to look at students’ proposals to other agencies.

Ashley says the final Grant Writer’s Academy session will demonstrate methods of finding and applying for private foundation grants. Training will be provided by experts from the Michigan State University Funding Center.

Plans are being developed for a self-tutoring PowerPoint version of basic proposal writing. The PowerPoint presentation and some other written materials may also become available at the Council’s web site.

Information about the academy will be sent to the RFP announcement mail list. If you do not receive RFP announcements from the Council

and wish to be placed on the mail list, contact Ivy Bedford at the Council office at 517-334-7342, or email her at bedfordi@michigan.gov.

Governor signs buy-in bill into law

Gov. Jennifer Granholm on July 2 signed into law the Michigan Senate bill giving people with disabilities the ability to have a job, earn money and retain Medicaid health benefits.

The Department of Community Health program is expected to be operating by the end of the year.

Monday Update readers will recall the front page article in the May issue detailing problems encountered by people with disabilities who want to work and make a decent wage. In such cases, it was cheaper not to work and keep the Medicaid benefits.

The bill signed into law by Gov. Granholm lets people earn as much as possible, own more than \$2,000 in assets and still remain eligible for Medicaid benefits.

Marsha Moers, chair of the Council’s Capital Area Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee (RICC), was quoted in the *Lansing State Journal* as saying the bill signing was a “momentous act.”

Moers told the newspaper, “The Americans with Disabilities Act was the first step. This is the second step in allowing people with disabilities to become fully immersed in community life.” She is employed at the Capital Area Center for Independent Living.

Council committee and work group meeting minutes

Here are minutes from recent meetings of the Council’s committee and work groups.

The Housing Work Group meets

quarterly and did not meet in June. Minutes for the Education and Health Issues Work Groups were not available at press time.

Transportation Work Group

June

Attending:

Lansing- Tandy Bidinger, Stu Lindsay, Angel Fandialan, Margaret Heiser, Doug Anderson, Alphonse Mercado, Kathie Janego

By Teleconference:

Muskegon- Jennifer Faunt
Marquette- Howard Schweppe, Janice Peterson
L'Anse- Mick Sheridan, Terry Naukervis
St. Ignace- Tonee Therrian

Chairperson Diane Kempen is absent today.
Tandy Bidinger presided over the meeting.

After introductions, the minutes from the April 10, 2003 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Stu Lindsay provided a list of RICCs and the LACs for each area. He has received about 2/3 of the LAC (Local Advisory Council) information so far, and is still waiting for the rest. It is anticipated that this list will be complete by the end of the summer. The group discussed sending this list out with cover letters to RICCs and LACs, as it will be a good resource for both. It is hoped that these two groups can work together to improve public transportation.

RICC Work Plans were discussed in terms of their plans for transportation advocacy. It was proposed that we invite RICC members from areas not currently represented in the TWG to join, and also that TWG members visit RICC's to make presentations on transportation advocacy. Centers for Independent Living were mentioned as a good source of consumer members.

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Tonee and Alphonse agreed to try and recruit new members.

Tandy also will follow up on contacts made with the Capital Area RICC.

The group discussed proposed changes in the LAC legislation that would require at least fifty percent of LAC members to be senior citizens **and** people with disabilities. The possible wording change of "senior citizens **and/or** people with disabilities" was debated as a way to guarantee that younger people with disabilities are represented on the LAC.

Another debate was whether professional advocates are as good at representing the interests of people with disabilities, as people with disabilities themselves.

It was pointed out that the power that LACs have in shaping transportation is limited. They do sign the annual applications every year, but they are only an advisory group. One member of the TWG suggested that transportation advocates focus instead on gaining seats on the transit authorities' Board of Directors. The theory presented is that Transit Agencies' Board of Directors may have more power than LACs do.

Another question we examined was the age at which a person is considered to be a senior citizen. This would determine which category of LAC membership would apply, as well as if a rider is entitled to senior discounts. The ages from 55 to 60, and 62 and 65 were all mentioned as possible Senior Citizen categories. Apparently different counties define senior citizens status differently. Some areas give both senior citizens and people with disabilities transit discounts. Howard stated that in Marquette, "Senior Citizen" for transit

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purposes, is defined as the same age that the local area agency on aging sets it as.

The letter writing campaign that the Transportation Work Group had been involved in was discussed. There was a report that one TWG member was questioned by a legislator about the letter writing campaign. The legislator claimed that their county would not be affected by cuts to the transportation budget, and the legislator apparently thought the letters were causing problems. This particular legislator also wanted to know where we got our information from.

Since the sample letter that went out to the TWG merely suggested that members write about the importance of public transportation for people with disabilities, it is unclear how such letters would “cause problems”. We would still like to hear from other TWG members regarding the results or responses from any legislative contact. If anyone wishes to submit copies of their letters, we could present them to the group at the next meeting.

The formation of DARTA without the passage of DARTA was discussed. The potential problem in this initiative is that while there is federal funding available to study and make recommendations on how to create a regional, coordinated transit system in the metro Detroit area, the group would need to find funding for any changes that are made. While it is possible that a regional, coordinated system would result in a cost savings, there would be some initial investment required. The concern is that other areas of the state may not want their transit funding reduced in order to fund DARTA.

Another legislative update is that MI continues to seek a better return on MI taxes from the federal government, to reduce the extent to which MI is a “donor state”. Several transit groups have special summer programs designed to boost the use of public

transportation, including Marquette’s free rides for teens 18 and under, and Holland’s teen discount. These programs apply to fixed route buses. Public transportation may be seen as undesirable in many parts of MI. The attempt to attract new riders may help to remove the stigma.

A pilot project using a “travel voucher” program is being considered in the U.P. and a teleconference is being planned for June 19 with Dr. Tom Seekins. All TWG members are invited to attend.

The MDOT’s Volunteer Driver program (through Specialized Services) was criticized by a TWG member, as having requirements that were too detailed and intrusive. MDOT is studying this issue. The American Legion’s volunteer driver program was given as an example of a successful program.

Upcoming conferences were mentioned including the MRC November conference, which the DD conference will be a partner in. There will be a number of DD Council presentations, including one about transportation, which several members of the TWG will be involved in. Margaret Heiser brought up an MDOT Transportation Summit that is being planned for December 2003. Disability Advocacy groups have been invited to participate in the planning.

Several TWG members attended the June 9th Land Use Leadership Council meeting, and the Disability Community was well represented. There was quite a bit of testimony regarding the needs of people with disabilities for accessible public transportation, and for communities that are “walk-able” and “roll-able”. Harold Sackett gave testimony about some of the obstacles facing people with disabilities in rural areas. He stated that many people are forced to move to cities, in

order to obtain needed services such as transportation.

There is an opportunity to provide written comments to the Land Use Leadership Council. The TWG has agreed to do so this summer. Doug and Janice volunteered to work on a draft document.

Future TWG meetings were discussed. The group had previously discussed taking one month off from meeting this summer. The TWG members would like to cancel the July meeting, and meet again in August. Pending approval by the Chair Diane Kempen, the meeting will be cancelled.

Organizational Learning will be the subject of future meetings. It will be a process that assists the TWG in writing the next year's action/work plan. Members were asked to bring their calendars to the next meeting, as we must set all of the meetings for the next year by August 15, 2003. It is possible that staff and or the Chair will visit some of the teleconference sites for future meetings. The Lansing location would still serve as the main meeting site.

As "homework", group members were asked to review the action/work plan to determine which items we have completed. Future planning will be needed to plan how to achieve the remaining objectives by the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2003.

Meeting adjourned.

Family Support Work Group

June

Members Present: Bud Kraft, Kristen
Columbus, Aaron Sherbin, Connie
Closson,
Vendela Collins, Kevin Ford

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Members Present by Phone: Theresa Arini,
Randy Krause

Agenda:

- Reviewed the "creating a vision" responses
- Identified common themes and issues revealed in those responses
- Listed the key elements for two of the vision themes – training sessions and consistency of services
- Described the key conditions necessary to successfully meet the vision
- Discussed next steps

The group members present reviewed the homework responses provided to Kevin. A summary of that discussion follows.

Creating a Vision: Top Themes

- Increase knowledge of existing resources and systems available to people with disabilities and their caregivers through the implementation of training sessions throughout the State of Michigan
- Increase the consistency of services across counties especially in relation to respite care issues
- Develop a more comprehensive information sharing, one stop shop, system (web site, 1-800 number) for parents, caregivers, educators, consumers, agency personnel to call for answers to questions or a need for help
- Increase the amount of parent to parent support statewide by connecting parents who have children with similar disorders
- Develop stronger networks among mental health, Family Independent Agency (FIA), community advocates, school representatives, community agencies, churches and parents to share

resources, avoid duplication, and provide a continuum of services

- Create a stronger advocacy base to affect policy directives and increase funding for respite services for families who have children with disabilities

making sure not to duplicate those efforts

- Develop a marketing plan that includes who should attend and how this training is adding value over and above other training efforts currently available

The group keyed in on an effective training system to demonstrate key conditions needed, which include the following:

Key Conditions Required for Success of Implementing an Effective Training System

- Funding for training development and delivery
- Scholarships/reimbursements for parents/caregivers who attend
- Identification of regions so that training can be given in multiple places rather than a single location
- Develop a training system that will continue over time rather than being a one time event
- Partner with regional representatives to make sure resource identification is accurate for the region and to help in delivery of the training
- Create a team of people committed to developing the training program and in setting up how and where it will be delivered
- Determine who should attend – to which agencies and to whom within each agency is the training targeted
- Develop a way to help agencies disseminate the information from the training sessions to others in the agency who did not attend
- Identify the content that is worthwhile and unique – i.e., not found through other sources and training programs – this requires identifying other training programs that currently exist and

The group then discussed increasing the consistency of services.

Key Conditions Required for Success of Increasing Consistency of Services at the County Level

- Receptive local policy makers
- Create a document from the Family Support Work Group and DD Council on what we advocate as a baseline of services for each county (fundamental level of support needed)
- Follow-up with county officials regarding position paper and what counties are doing to improve service
- Identify key contacts at county level
- Connect with RICCs members as a local support system
- Make sure FSWG people are available to counties throughout the process of funding deliberations and follow-up and that the plans are affordable and winnable from the county's perspective
- The DD Council fund advocacy efforts at the county level (e.g., mileage reimbursement for attending meetings etc.)
- Provide information to parents on how to work with county boards and other groups to influence outcomes
- Work to increase the number of people interested in Family Support issues on key boards

Next Steps

There are four remaining themes that need to be discussed and the conditions for success identified. Each remaining theme has been divided up among the participants from today's meeting. These leaders are to work with a small group of committed persons on the Family Support Work Group to 1. clarify the theme (make sure everyone is on the same page) and 2. identify the key conditions of success (following the model above).

This work is to be conducted in July and results sent to Tracy Vincent

(Vincenttr@michigan.gov) at the DD Council by August 6th. Members of these sub teams can use the 1-800 number to be provided by Bud Kraft of the DD Council so that there is no out of pocket expenses for this process.

The team leaders will provide the date, time and telephone code for your group. Each call is expected to last 30-45 minutes. The topics and team leaders are:

Information Sharing Theme – Connie Closson
Parent-to-Parent Connections – Kristen Columbus
Networking with Others – Aaron Sherbin and Randy Krause
Policy Development – Theresa Arini

The next meeting is scheduled for August 20th from 10:00 to 1:00. The agenda is to prioritize what vision themes to focus on the short, medium, and long term and to develop strategies for addressing the key elements of the prioritized list.

Monthly meetings will be held after the August meeting on the third Wednesday of each month from 10:00 am - noon. Meetings can be

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cancelled if there are not enough issues to discuss, but you would be notified.

Those dates are:

September 17, 2003
October 15, 2003
November 19, 2003
December 17, 2003
January 21, 2004
February 18, 2004
March 17, 2004
April 21, 2004
May 19, 2004
June 16, 2004
July 21, 2004
August 18, 2004
September 15, 2004

Multicultural Committee

May/June

The Multicultural committee did not meet in May, as the day and time of the Committee meeting conflicted with the Council's retreat.

Instead, Committee Chairperson, Terry DeRocher Lerma, presented an over-view of cultural competence and diversity on the first day of the retreat and presented the Committee's Action Plan on the second day. Council response to both of these presentations was discussed at the June Committee meeting.

The Action Plan is being modified in response to Council's feedback and the Committee discussion about the feedback.

Evaluations of the diversity/competency presentation and the assessment of Council members' training needs/interests in this area are being summarized to help determine future trainings to be offered to Council.

Public Policy Committee

June

Attending:

Jane Reagan
Terry Hunt
Tandy Bidinger
Jane Spitzley
Todd Koopmans
Duncan Wyeth
Rick Van Horn
Andre Robinson

Agenda:

1. Medicaid Buy-In and Waivers: Update
2. Transportation Legislation in MI – DARTA Update
3. Education Work Group – Review Draft of Proposed Position on Inclusion in Charter Schools and group discussion and IDEA Reauthorization
4. Discussion of Rep. Brandenburg's letter re: Group Homes (continued)
5. Report on the Co-Power Action Day (May 8, 2003)
6. Olmstead Issues: MI Choice Update
7. Sutton nomination update and possible Judicial Reform LTC Standards – article (handouts)
8. Other
 - Mental Health Parity
 - DD Council's Rapid Response Policy
 - Organizational Learning (need to schedule)
 - Revenue Outlook Federal/State

Welcome and introductions.

Jane Reagan motioned to approve minutes from previous meeting. Todd Koopmans seconded. Motion approved.

Terry Hunt gave an update on Medicaid Buy-In and Tandy discussed Waivers. It is unknown if the state modified the waiver requests. A continued concern is the short response time

frame. The Public Policy Committee agreed that they would like to send to Governor Granholm and to CMS directly our responses. Staff will check on the protocol.

Tandy Bidinger gave an update on Transportation Legislation in MI (DARTA Update). DARTA legislation was not passed yet partly due to the "opt out" provisions, but DARTA was formed anyway. Andre stated that transportation in Detroit is not coordinated. MDOT budget is being reduced. Duncan Wyeth wants to invite Stu Lindsay to the next DD Council/Public Policy Committee meeting to have him speak briefly on transportation issues. Tandy reported on the Land Use Leadership Council, and the testimony given by people with disabilities regarding the need for public transportation.

The position papers were discussed. Revisions were discussed for the Position on Universal Education in Publicly Funded Schools. Changes will be made and then the document will be sent back to the Education Work Group members for review. The revision of the previously adopted Council Position on Inclusive Education involved changing the title to Universal Education, and will be presented to the Education Work Group. The document on publicly funded schools was revised to be consistent with the Universal Education document.

Discussion took place on IDEA Reauthorization. It is still pending. Jane stated that the issue is not a high priority for Congress. There was no action taken on IDEA at this time. Andre stressed the importance of education for young people with disabilities.

Discussion took place on Rep. Brandenburg's letter regarding group homes. It is probably too late to send a response. It was suggested to check with St. Clair Shores for the facts regarding the

type of group homes involved and/or consumers and industry services. The PPC would also like to see the response from Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services.

Terry Hunt gave an update on Co-Power Action Day. There was a good turnout and everyone had a good time. It was an excellent follow-up to our legislative event and some participants met with their legislators.

Discussion took place on the Pow Wow, which was held May 30-31. People who attended the Pow Wow/Disability Conference: Kevin Wisselink, to talk about transportation issues, Terry Lerma, Multi-cultural Committee Chair, Duncan Wyeth, and Mitzi Allen-Sharp, staff of the DD Council. It was a great opportunity to network and learn about Native American culture.

MI Choice Waiver will be re-opening. The Governor will announce the number of slots and dates soon. Duncan said that Chapter 3 is being pulled back for re-write according to Pat Barrie of Michigan Department of Community Health, but for now the old Chapter 3 is in effect.

Sutton was confirmed and there is concern about possible Supreme Court retirement. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and Chief Justice William Rehnquist are the most likely to retire. Pryor is the next confirmation battle, and will once again focus on state's rights.

Duncan discussed the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) reductions. Cuts are being proposed. They are proposing one EEOC office per region. Offices in Detroit and Chicago would close. This is likely to result in less service.

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Discussion took place on Mental Health Parity. Major health care

reform is expected to occur within 5-7 years. Duncan stated that Michigan is only one of the 15 states that do not have Mental Health Parity. The business community has expressed objections and say they will be less able to offer reasonable co-pays and insurance. They say that mandated coverage may result in fewer people with insurance. However, some financial experts have stated the actual cost increase would be minimal.

Discussion took place on the DD Council's Rapid Response Policy. This came out of the discussion at the DD Council retreat in May. Work groups could begin to tackle this by subject or issues and develop a position statement or policies. Duncan asked if we could call them Council "policies", rather than position statements.

The ADA is in jeopardy due to recent court decisions and some advocates are fighting to preserve it.

Meeting adjourned.

Program Committee

April

Present: Dan Vivian, Co-Chair; Don Trout*, Co-Chair; Barbara LeRoy*; Aaron Sherbin.
Staff: Glenn Ashley; Cheryl Trommater.
T* = Attending by telephone.

Issue: Summary of April meeting.
Summary of Actions: It was approved by consensus.

Issue: Letter to Multicultural Workgroup
Summary of Actions: The Committee reviewed the draft letter. Following discussion, the Committee directed that, since people with chemical dependence and homeless people are not actually "culturally distinct groups," the recommended change should be shifted to

policy on outreach, rather the included in the language on diversity, as had been discussed previously. A new draft will be circulated to Committee members.

Issue: 2004 Committee Workplan: Preliminary discussion.

Summary of Actions: The Committee agreed that the general structure used this year should continue to be useful. Dan Vivian reported that the executive director wants the committee to review RFP boilerplate language again this year, because the language in current use is too complicated. She also wants review of the proposal review process because there have been complaints that it's biased. He said that she did not share any specifics about what part of the boilerplate is too complicated or about what kind of bias.

On the boilerplate language, members commented that the Committee has done a thorough review within the last few years, and that all the time they have spent on it in the past has done little to reduce complaints. "We can't possibly please everybody." Aaron Sherbin agreed that, given the request, the review would have to be done. He observed that, in his experience, this type of review consumes a great deal of time and energy and usually brings a group back to adopting something very much like what they already had. He added that if we do make significant changes, people will have a whole new learning curve and will complain that the changes made it more difficult.

Before putting a lot of time into re-writing, Committee members want to get specifics about what's too complicated and/or unfair. Dan Vivian added that most of the complaints he's heard, or heard about, were regarding points of Council policy — requirements for assuring diversity, outreach, cultural competence, evaluation, sustainability, etc.

A possible survey of users was discussed briefly. Vivian said that before starting the review, the Committee will ask the executive director to meet with them and bring the people who want changes, or at least bring detailed information about their specific complaints.

On the review process: Vivian said he was given no specifics about problems with the review process either, except that he knows at least some people who don't win grants will always say it's biased against them. He commented that people who lost out in the RFP/Review process have always complained, no matter what the language or process was.

Change in the Mini-Grant Review Process: Cheryl Trommater reported that the executive director has instructed her to revise the mini-grant review process by providing time for applicants to come to the review group meetings in person to answer reviewers' questions.

Don Trout calculated that such a provision would mean at least a two day review process, even allowing for only 5 minutes or so per applicant. "Who's going to be willing to be a reviewer? Who has time?" Dan Vivian said that from the point of view of the volunteer reviewer, it will be very hard to justify that use of personal time. Conclusion: We'll have to try it, then make recommendations for the future. The Committee concluded that the process would have to be tried this year at least. Having done it, they could then make recommendations.

On the workplan: Glenn Ashley reminded the Committee that we will need to include review of suggestions from the longitudinal study, which include some about RFPs and review.

Issue: Longitudinal studies of Council grant projects: What Next?.

Summary of Actions: Glenn Ashley reported that he is meeting with all the

workgroups to discuss the notebook and to go over the findings that apply to their area. Committee members commented that we need to develop a way to maintain information about grant activities as projects finish up and files are sent to Records Center. We also need to organize better ways to retain grant products and make them available to others. Ashley suggested that we also have available products from other DD Councils that might be made more accessible.

Issue: Grant Project Briefing: 2003 RICC Mini-Grants

Summary of Actions: Ashley reported on current status of Mini-Grants that are:

Recently finished:
Voters with Disabilities, League of Women Voters of The Copper Country,
Midland Dental Project, The Arc of Midland

Extended: Nothing About Us Without Us, Community Connections, Berrien RICC

Starting Up:
Go! Be Aware, Watersmeet Twp. ISD, Gogebic RICC Grassroots Outreach, Resource One, Antrim-Kalkaska RICC Housing Visitability, The Disability Network, Genesee RICC Inclusive Recreation, Van Buren Community Mental Health, Van Buren RICC

Issue: Status Report on RFPs

Summary of Actions: Cheryl Trommater handed out a calendar for the upcoming RFP Package 2003A, which will include both the Evaluation of Person Centered Planning and Self-Determination and the Employment Study.

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The RICC Mini-Grant RFP has been delayed by the need to re-configure the schedule to accommodate the longer review

time that will allow for grantees to make in-person presentations.

Advocates, turn this page and get involved!

As it has been for several months, the next page on this issue of the Monday Update is a form to be completed...if you are interested, that is.

This is not just any form, but an application for membership on one of the state's most prestigious and productive advocacy groups: the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, for anyone who has ever considered membership on the DD Council.

Of course, membership on the Council is not automatic. It depends on openings, qualifications, and many other factors. So what have you got to lose?

The reason you are reading this newsletter is, more than likely, you are an advocate for people with disabilities. That is the first qualification!

So grab a pen or get somebody to help you and fill out the form. Mail or fax it to us.

Thank you!